



Congressman Bill Thomas

22nd District, California

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Thomas Announces \$300,000 for Kern County Sheriff's Department to Fight Gangs

The Kern County Sheriff's Department will receive \$300,000 to significantly enhance its ability to combat drugs and gangs when a bill approved by the House of Representatives today is signed into law.

The funding was included in the conference report, or final version, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 at the request of Congressman Bill Thomas. The Kern County Sheriff's Department's Narcotics and Gang Related Units will use it to purchase equipment that will allow it to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its criminal investigations, particularly those pertaining to drug trafficking and gang activity.

"Crimes related to drug production and distribution and gang activity impose great costs, both in human and financial terms, on Kern County residents," said Thomas. "This funding is an investment that will help to reduce those costs and improve the quality of life in our community."

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, which was approved by the House by a vote of 344-51 today, now heads to the Senate for consideration. After Senate approval, it will head to President Bush for his signature.

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